

Routine pregnancy testing before treatment

This leaflet explains why all female patients who are 12 years old or above undergo routine pregnancy testing before certain operations or procedures.

Some procedures carry a risk to unborn babies. These procedures include some (but not all) x-rays, scans and operations. The NHS Commissioning Board Special Health Authority and the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) have said we have to check all girls aged 12 or older who are having certain procedures to see if they are pregnant. We have to test girls even if they tell us they are not sexually active or have not yet had their first period. It is possible for a girl to get pregnant before it is evident that she has started her periods.

What will happen?

If you will be 12 or over on the day that you are due to undergo one of these procedures a member of staff will ask you for a sample of urine to test on that day. The testing will be done in private, and the result will be available later the same day.

What happens then?

This depends on the result and how old you are.

If the test result is negative (that is, you are not pregnant) we will tell you and record it discreetly in your medical notes. If you would like to tell someone the result, we can help you. If you do not want us to share the result, we won't.

If the result is positive (that is, you are pregnant) we will support you whatever your age. In all cases the medical or surgical team will be made aware of the result.

■ If you are under 16 and pregnant

- The surgical, radiological or medical team will decide if the procedure should continue or be delayed.
- The Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) Social Work Service will be informed.
- If we need to tell your parents or carers about the result, we will talk to you first.
- If you would like to tell your parents or carers about the result, and you want our help in telling them, this can be arranged.

■ If you are over 16 and pregnant

- The surgical, radiological or medical team will decide if the procedure should continue or be delayed.
- It will be your decision when or if you tell your parents or carers the result of the pregnancy test. If you would like our help in telling them this can be arranged.

Who will be told the test result?

Your medical, surgical or radiological team will be made aware of the result. If you are pregnant they will decide if the procedure can still go ahead or whether it needs to be delayed. The result will be discreetly recorded in your medical notes.

If you are under 16 years old the GOSH Social Work Service will be told.

Can I refuse to be tested?

You can refuse, but your scan or operation might be cancelled if you do not have a pregnancy test. The GOSH Social Work Service and your medical, surgical or radiological team will have to be informed if you do refuse.

Who can I talk to if I have any questions?

- Parents or carers
- Close relatives
- Friends
- Your doctor)
- Your nurse
- GOSH PALS office (located in main reception)
- GOSH Adolescent Nurse Specialist
- Your teacher
- Your school nurse
- Family doctor (GP)

Any professional that you ask questions of will respect your right to confidentiality.

Confidentiality means we will not share information about you without your agreement. Usually anything you tell a healthcare professional or member of hospital staff will be kept confidential, this includes when you talk to doctors, nurses and PALS office staff. The only exception to this is if we think the health, safety or welfare of you, or another person, is at risk. If we need to share information with someone else we will explain to you why we need to do this and we will support you to talk about it.

GOSH PALS: 020 7829 7862

**GOSH Adolescent Nurse Specialist:
020 7813 8541**

There are also some websites and organisations you could contact.

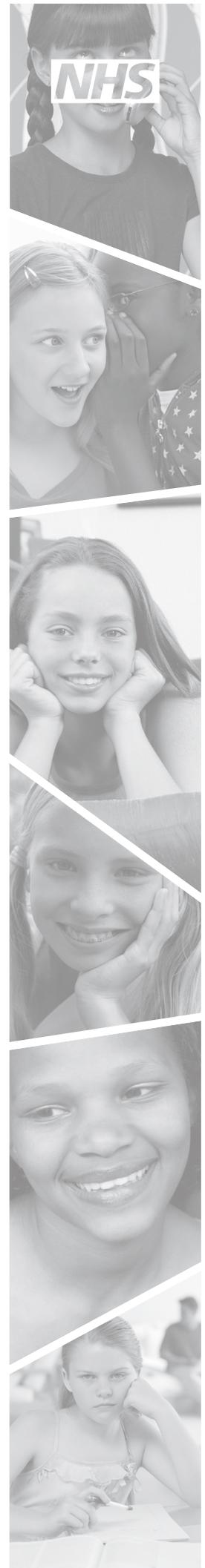
FPA

www.fpa.org.uk
0845 122 8690

Brook

www.brook.org.uk
0808 802 1234

[www.nhs.uk/Livewell/
Sexandyoungpeople](http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Sexandyoungpeople)



Compiled by Pre-Procedural Pregnancy Testing Group
in collaboration with the Child and Family Information Group

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